14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

architects to design certain major projects independently or in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works. A number of standard types of buildings should be developed and studied as a guide for future projects. For example, two or three tested types of classrooms should be available, suited to the differing climatic regions of Syria.

Commercial Buildings

With respect to commercial buildings, the government's problems include provision of town and village markets. For centuries these have been built on a traditional oriental design, with a network of covered passages on which the various shops open. Such construction has permitted market activity under conditions of severe heat or heavy rain, and has lent itself to the prevalence of small shops appropriate to the country's economic standards. Although this form of market is still the most common, new ones of the type are no longer being built. In some settlements of the Jezireh, in Kamichliye and Hassetche, the new *souks* borrow something from the old design, combining it with regular narrow streets covered with temporary roofing. Elsewhere markets are following the western pattern.

As part of the general development program the government might well finance a special study of the type of market that will most economically offer protected shopping, small-size shops, sanitary conditions and better ventilation. Thereafter municipalities should proceed to plan for their own requirements.

Transportation Structures

Most buildings related to transportation services are the responsibility of the railways and port authorities, and provision has been made for them in the transport program. Yet one category of building usually neglected in planning is that serving bus and truck transportation, which is of greatest importance in a country like Syria with its many small settlements. What is needed is something equivalent to the caravanserai of earlier times—perhaps a combination of a big courtyard, a service garage, a storehouse and a small hostel. Here too, the government might undertake a study of an appropriate prototype, leaving construction to the municipalities and private business.

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COTTON IN SYRIA

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Cotton bought in small lots from many farmers in various sections is thoroughly mixed in seed cotton storage bins in Aleppo, Syria, before ginning to get uniformity in the bale.

more neps, and often damage the fibers. Also, farmers have not been able to secure any higher price for their saw ginned cotton with less trash, but several dealers in Aleppo reported sales of saw ginned cotton at a premium, indicating that the market situation may be changing.

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Whereas formerly ginners took the seed to cover the cost of ginning, with the increased value of the seed, ginners now are required to operate on a service basis for a fixed charge.

MARKETING

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The concentration of ginning equipment in a few large towns creates a difficult and expensive transportation problem for the farmers in remote areas. Because of the distance to the gins, many farmers are forced to sell cotton in the seed to merchants or middlemen in the local communities. Merchants gin the cotton for their own account and then dispose of the lint and the seed. Most of the gins are owned by merchants, but by no means do all merchants own gins.

Aleppo is the cotton merchandising center, with 47 exporters operating in this market in 1951. About half a dozen merchants, of whom two or three do a small export business, operate in Damascus. More than half of all the exports are sold through the three leading firms; the others do a small volume of business largely as a sideline.

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